

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented)The filter laminate of Claim 21, wherein the bond is a hot melt adhesive heat-bonded to said skin surface of said first membrane and to said skin surface of said second membrane.

2-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented)The filter laminate of Claim 21, wherein said asymmetric region of at least one of said first membrane and said second membrane comprises a reticular network of flow channels.

8-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented)The filter laminate of Claim 21, further comprising a third membrane.

14. (Previously presented)The filter laminate of Claim 13, further comprising a bond between the third membrane and either the first membrane or the second membrane, wherein the bond between the third membrane and either the first membrane or the second membrane is a hot melt adhesive heat-bonded to said third membrane and either the first membrane or the second membrane.

15. (Previously presented)The filter laminate of Claim 21, wherein said first membrane and said second membrane comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyvinylidene fluoride, polyarylsulfone, polyethersulfone, polyamides, and cellulosic derivatives.

16. (Previously presented)The filter laminate of Claim 1, further comprising a layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting of polyester, polypropylene, polyolefin, polyethylene, nylon, paper, cellulose, glass fiber, and acrylic.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The filter laminate of Claim 16, wherein said material is selected from the group consisting of nonwoven fibrous material, woven fibrous material, web material, sheet material, calendared material, wet laid material, dry laid material, and extruded material.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented)A filter laminate, comprising:

a plurality of discrete layers of material, wherein each layer is adjacent at least one other layer, said plurality of discrete layers comprising:

a first membrane, wherein said first membrane is an asymmetric membrane having a skin surface and an open surface, wherein pores of the open surface are larger than pores of the skin surface, and wherein said asymmetric region comprises flow channels that gradually increase in diameter from said skin surface to said open surface;

a second membrane, wherein said second membrane is an asymmetric membrane having a skin surface and an open surface, wherein pores of the open surface are larger than pores of the skin surface, and wherein said asymmetric region comprises flow channels that gradually increase in diameter from said skin surface to said open surface; and

a bond between the skin surface of the first membrane and the skin surface of the second membrane, wherein the filter laminate has a higher bubble point than either the first membrane or the second membrane, wherein a bubble point of the filter laminate is greater than a bubble point of the first membrane layer and the second membrane layer in a skin-to-skin configuration without bonding, and wherein the filter laminate has a greater integrity than a combination wherein the skin surface of the first membrane and the skin surface of the second membrane are adjacent to each other but not bonded to each other, wherein the filter laminate has a flow rate therethrough such that the filter laminate is configured for separation by filtration.

22. (Previously presented) The filter laminate of Claim 21, wherein the bond is formed from a nonwoven fibrous material, a woven fibrous material, or an open extruded material.

23-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The filter laminate of Claim 21, wherein the filter laminate is permeable to water.

26. (Previously presented) The filter laminate of Claim 21, wherein the bond is a web hot melt adhesive.

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27. (Previously presented) The filter laminate of Claim 21, wherein the bond comprises bicomponent fibers containing both a low melting component and a high melting component, wherein the low melting component melts and forms a bond at a temperature at which the high melting component, the first membrane, and the second membrane survive unchanged.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) The filter laminate of Claim 21, wherein the first membrane and the second membrane have different skin pore sizes.

30. (Previously presented) The filter laminate of Claim 21, wherein the first membrane and the second membrane have same skin pore sizes.

31-34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously presented) The filter laminate of Claim 21, wherein, for at least one of the first membrane and the second membrane, said pores of said open surface have an average diameter at least about 5 times greater than an average diameter of said pores of said skin surface.

36. (Previously presented) The filter laminate of Claim 21, wherein, for at least one of the first membrane and the second membrane, said pores of said open surface have an average diameter at least about 10 times greater than an average diameter of said pores of said skin surface.

37. (Previously presented) The filter laminate of Claim 35, wherein, for at least one of the first membrane and the second membrane, an average diameter of said pores of said skin surface is from about 0.01 μm to about 10.0 μm .

38. (Previously presented) The filter laminate of Claim 35, wherein, for at least one of the first membrane and the second membrane, an average diameter of said pores of said skin surface is less than about 0.01 μm .

39-41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously presented) A filter laminate, comprising:
a plurality of discrete layers of material, wherein each layer is adjacent at least one other layer, said plurality of discrete layers comprising:

a first membrane, wherein said first membrane is an asymmetric membrane having a skin surface and an open surface, wherein pores of the open surface have an average diameter at least about 5 times greater than an average diameter of

pores of the skin surface, and wherein said asymmetric region comprises flow channels that gradually increase in diameter from said skin surface to said open surface;

a second membrane, wherein said second membrane is an asymmetric membrane having a skin surface and an open surface, wherein pores of the open surface have an average diameter at least about 5 times greater than an average diameter of pores of the skin surface, and wherein said asymmetric region comprises flow channels that gradually increase in diameter from said skin surface to said open surface; and

a bond between the open surface of the first membrane and the open surface of the second membrane, wherein the filter laminate has a flow rate therethrough such that the filter laminate is configured for separation by filtration.

43. (Previously presented) The filter laminate of Claim 42, wherein, for at least one of the first membrane and the second membrane, an average diameter of said pores of said skin surface is from about 0.01 μm to about 10.0 μm .

44. (Previously presented) The filter laminate of Claim 42, wherein, for at least one of the first membrane and the second membrane, an average diameter of said pores of said skin surface is less than about 0.01 μm .